

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/028,060

Examiner

Sy D. Luu

Applicant(s)

NEWELL ET AL.

Art Unit

2174

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to the communication filed 9/13/06 and phone interview on 11/2/06.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-6, 8-49 and 51-83.
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____

SY D. LUU
PRIMARY PATENT EXAMINER

Examiner's Amendment and Reasons for Allowance

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

2. Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Mr. Jeff Hollmen on 11/2/2006.

3. Claim 1 is amended as follows:

1. (Twice Amended) A computer-based user interface for accessing litigation information associated with at least one litigation case, the user interface comprising:

a home page including a first plurality of user-selectable hyperlinks, each hyperlink in the first plurality of hyperlinks identifying a category of litigation information, the hyperlinks thereby identifying categories of litigation information, and

a plurality of web pages, each web page associated with one of the hyperlinks in the first plurality of web pages, each web page providing litigation information related to the category identified by the hyperlink associated with the web page, each web page displayed in response to selection of the hyperlink associated with the web page,

wherein at least one web page associated with one of the plurality of hyperlinks in the first plurality of hyperlinks includes a hyperlink to an electronic copy of a document related to the category identified by the hyperlink associated with the at least one web page, and

wherein one of the categories ~~category~~ identified by the hyperlinks is pleadings information, and wherein the web page associated with the hyperlink for pleadings information includes a plurality of pleadings entries, each pleadings entry including a description of a pleading.

Statement of Reasons for Allowance

4. Claims 1-6, 8-49 and 51-83 are allowed.
5. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance.

The present invention is directed to a method for managing and accessing litigation information associated with litigation cases.

Independent claims 1, 49, 62, 70, 75, and 80-81 recite, or similarly recite, in combination with the remaining elements, the step of providing primary and secondary user interface pages or web pages identifying links to a plurality of categories and subcategories of litigation information, wherein at least one of the following is recited: (a) the categories and subcategories of litigation include at least pleadings information; or (b) the secondary user interface includes user selectable links to electronic copies of litigation documents related to the identified litigation category; or (c) the user interface comprises a plurality of litigation case selection pages, each litigation case selection page including at least one hyperlink identifying at least one litigation case associated with a particular client.

The closest prior art, Grow (US 6,694,315 B1) and Bedell et al. (US 6,622,128 B1), show a substantially similar method for managing and accessing litigation information. However, Grow and Bedell et al., singularly or in combination, still fail to anticipate or render the above cited limitations obvious.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

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Inquires


Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Sy Luu whose telephone number is (571) 272-4064. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday from 7:300 am to 4:00 pm (EST).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Kristine Kincaid, can be reached on (571) 272-4063.

The fax number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (571) 273-8300.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 305-3900.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



SY D. LUU
PRIMARY EXAMINER
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